

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME and Reminders!

Welcome to all new and returning students! We look forward to serving your F-1/J-1 needs while you study here at SCU. Please remember that we are here to help you with any immigration questions or issues you may be facing.

Did you know that International Student Services is currently serving **over 650** students? We are excited about our growth. However, please also note that as a result, we have a lot more paper work and requests to process. We thus ask that you **please respect our policy that we require 5 working days to process any request**. No exceptions can be made in order to be fair to all students. It is your responsibility to take into consideration this timeline when making a request. Thank you for your cooperation.

ISS UPDATES

Ryan Dilag is our new Student Intern. He joined our team in early September. Ryan is a second year Graduate student in the Pastoral Ministries program and is majoring in Spirituality. Ryan's enthusiasm and energy makes him a welcome addition to our team. Welcome Ryan!

ISS would also like to take this opportunity to thank Inna Zaltsmann who has been temporarily assisting our office while Gillian is on leave for the Fall quarter. Inna brings years of experience and lots of energy and a commitment to servicing the needs of our international students. Thank you Inna!

Walk-in office hours continue to be Monday-Friday from

9 am – 12 pm. In the afternoons though, **we do ask that you please contact our office to schedule an appointment**. We want to limit the amount of advising in the afternoon, so that we are able to process your paperwork requests. To schedule an appointment, please contact Ryan Dilag at 551-7037 or at iss@scu.edu

FALL QUARTER INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NUMBERS

This Fall ISS welcomed **180** new international students to the SCU community.

Graduate Engineering: **63**
Graduate Business School: **31**
Law (including exchange): **16**
Law (LLM): **16**
Pastoral Ministries: **1**
Undergraduate Students: **38**
Undergraduate Exchange Students: **15**

International Student Services would like to thank all of you who participated in the Fall International Student Orientation. As always, your valuable input and support is greatly appreciated.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments for future orientations, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are always seeking ways to improve and your feedback would much appreciated.

Thank you to all incoming students who provided feedback to us at the orientation by filling out the surveys!

THE COUNTRIES THESE NEW STUDENTS REPRESENT:

These new students represent **32** very diverse countries, which include:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Vietnam.

International Student Etiquette Dinner

You are invited to attend the **International Student Etiquette dinner**, sponsored by the SCU Career Center, which will be held on:

**Thursday, Oct. 20th,
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Adobe Lodge.**

Certified Etiquette Consultant: Sharyn Kennedy Amoroso
RSVP @ the Career Center
\$20.00 Refundable Deposit
SPACE IS LIMITED so RSVP As Soon As Possible (ASAP)

H-1B Employment Workshop

International Student Services (ISS) will be hosting an employment workshop focusing on the H-1B work visa on **Thursday, October 27th, from 2-4 pm in Conference Room #15 in the basement of Benson Center.**

Charina Garcia, an expert immigration attorney, will be presenting and will be available to answer questions regarding the H-1B employment-based visa and other visa options beyond the F-1 visa. This seminar is ideal for any students who are close to graduating and are interested in working in the United States after graduation and after completing OPT.

We look forward to hosting this Employment Workshop and helping you understand the complex immigration issues surrounding the H-1B visa and other visa types. If you are interested in attending then please RSVP to iss@scu.edu.

International Conversation Connection Pot Luck

We are thrilled to announce our first ever International Pot Luck, sponsored jointly by ISS and the HUB Writing Center on **Thursday, November 3rd, from 4-6 pm in the HUB**, where you can share your country's cuisine and exchange a friendly conversation.

- Share your language and cooking skills.

- Having a conversation partner is an effective, fun way to polish your language skills.
- Share your knowledge of English, Arabic, Italian, German, Chinese, Farsi, Hebrew, French, or Japanese with a native speaker of the language you are learning.
- Bring a dish to share, ideally something that shows off the cuisine of your native country.

Please RSVP to Ryan Dilag with your name and the dish you will be bringing at ISS@scu.edu. Spouses and other friends are welcome, just let us know.

FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIRED

Immigration law requires that all F1 students enroll and remain enrolled for **full-time** study during the Academic year. For more information about Full Time Enrollment at Santa Clara University, please check the following link at:

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/internationalstudents/maintainingstatus.cfm>

Students who drop below full-time study at any time during the quarter without **prior** authorization from an advisor in International Student Services (ISS) risk violating their visa status. Visa status violations can remain in the student's immigration record and may later affect a student's eligibility for a visa and re-entry into the U.S.

If you require a reduced course load, please see an ISS advisor **before** dropping a class.

NOTE: "Your ability to enroll will be affected by any financial holds on your student account. Be sure that your University bill is paid so that you will not be restricted from enrollment. Please contact the Bursar's Office if you have any questions about your University bill."

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

If you have not done so already, we encourage everybody who is graduating in December of 2011 to apply for optional practical training as soon as possible. It is currently taking USCIS 60-90 days to adjudicate these applications.

The OPT process may seem confusing and overwhelming so please feel free to make an appointment with Parinaz or drop in during walk-in office hours for advice. For complete information regarding OPT, visit the following web page:

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/internationalstudents/opt.cfm>

MONITOR THE END DATE ON YOUR I-20

Also please continue to check the end date on your I-20 and request an extension with ISS **BEFORE** the expiration of your I-20 by filling out the appropriate paper work. ISS will send you email reminders but it is ultimately your responsibility to be aware of the expiration of your I-20. For more information on requesting an extension to your program of study, please contact one of the ISS advisors.

WINTER TRAVEL

If you are an F-1/J1 visa holder and are planning a trip outside of the U.S., please don't forget to check page 3 of your I-20 (for F-1 students) or the first page of your DS-2019 (for J-1 students) before you depart. If the document has not been SIGNED within the past year for travel, you must request a travel signature from an ISS advisor.

PLEASE NOTE: Keep in mind that the signature is valid for one year, for multiple entries. (For students who are on post-completion practical training, however, the signature is valid for six months, not one year). To request the signature, please bring your I-20/DS-2019 to ISS, at least one week before departure.

In addition to the I-20/DS-2019, you will also need a valid F-1/J-1 visa stamp. It is recommended that you

also carry your previous I-20s/DS-2019s and an unofficial copy of your transcript in addition to recent financial documents.

If you are on OPT, you will also need your EAD card and a job offer letter.

SOME COMMON AMERICAN IDIOMS

We thought it would be fun to share some common American idioms/expressions with you.

(To) rack one's brain:

To try very hard to think of something. ex. "I racked my brain but I couldn't remember his name."

Against the clock:

To attempt to do something "against the clock" is to attempt to do something as fast as possible usually before a deadline.

Don't hold your breath:

Don't wait for it to happen because it probably won't. "You think David will break up with Tina? Don't hold your breath!"

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OF YOU THIS FALL QUARTER AND BEYOND!

Please remember that you must contact ISS immediately if you change your address, change your name or dependent's legal name, need a reduction in course load, or graduate early or prior to your program end date.

If you have received this email in error or would like to be taken off the international student mailing list, please contact Ryan Dilag at

iss@scu.edu

Tel: 408-551-7037 (ISS Front Office)

Gillian August-Thorp 408-554-5260 or Parinaz Zartoshty 408-551-7090